

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 6, 2005. Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-27 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are in independent form, and have been amended. Claims 2 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that Claims 2-13 and 15-26 (which have been objected to) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, with no change in scope.

Claims 1, 14, and 27 were rejected solely under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,424,843 (Reitmaa et al.).

In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 15, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14 to incorporate the recitations of Claims 2 and 15, respectively, and consequently Claims 1 and 14 are seen to be in condition for allowance.

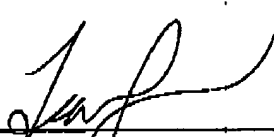
Claim 27 has been amended to, *inter alia*, incorporate recitations along the lines of those formerly recited in Claim 15, and is a program claim corresponding to independent method Claim 14. Consequently, Claim 27 is seen to be in condition for allowance as well.

The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the Section 102(e) rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and expedited passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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